

STATEMENT
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

Joint Committee on Environment

February 9, 2009

SB 743, An Act Concerning The Liability For Damage Caused By A Dog

The Insurance Association of Connecticut is opposed to SB 743, An Act Concerning The Liability For Damage Caused By A Dog, as the bill is unnecessary.

SB 743 seeks to include in C.G.S. Sec 22-357, Connecticut's strict liability statute for damage caused by a dog, a delineation of damages collectible for damage done to a dog by another dog.

Connecticut's strict liability statute is plainly clear that an owner of a dog is liable for all damages caused by that dog to any person or property. One's dog is covered as property. If we begin enumerating the types of items covered pursuant to the statute, the statute will likely have to be amended to provide the same for any and all potential damaged subjects of the statute. It is common practice that the measure of compensable damages for damages caused by one's dog to another include veterinary care, the fair monetary value of the dog, and reasonable burial expenses.

As such, the IAC urges your rejection of SB 743 as it is unnecessary.